



Veterans' and Military Affairs Advisory Board

New Mexico Veterans' Memorial

August 19, 2015

Minutes

Those Present:

Roger Newall, Archie Garcia, Ken O'Keefe, Stephen Asher, Steve Overman, Brian Leen, Jonathan Strawn, Chris Timm, and SECRETARY: Beth Hemmerich

Guests:

Tomas Garcia – Full Battle Rattle

Those Excused:

Pat Gaston, David Sparks, Mike Scramski, and Martin Ethridgehill

- I. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Roger Newall at 9:10 am
- II. Review and Accept of Minutes from June 17, 2015
 - The motion to accept the June minutes was approved. No changes were made.
- III. Public Comments
 - Tomas Garcia, from Full Battle Rattle, introduced himself to the group. Full Battle Rattle, as a division of The Desert Forge Foundation, provides a constructive outlet for combat-disabled veterans. They teach veterans how to play music. Learning to play guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, etc. by highly skilled music professional is therapeutic and a constructive outlet for post-war struggles. All instruction and instruments are free to the veteran.
- IV. Unfinished Business
 - Ken O'Keefe brought up the discussion of background checks. He has completed his and returned it, as instructed. Steve Overman and Stephen Asher also confirmed they have completed their checks, as well.
 - Steve Overman mentioned that there is no new news on the property. He will check and see if there has been any progress made that he is unaware of.
 - August 27, 2015. There will be Veteran's only Expo/Job Fair. This is for any veterans who need a job or businesses that are looking to hire veterans. This is free for veterans. There is a \$100 booth fee for businesses looking to partner with other businesses, not veteran related.
 - Roger gave a brief update on the Fischer House. It is estimated that ground breaking will take place in 2016. The property for the Fisher House will be located on the VA property. There was a VA Purple Heart celebration where 24 recipients received recognition and then presented the Fischer House with a \$14 thousand check raised by the golf tournament with The Military Order of the Purple Heart and The Night Shift (Television Series on CBS, filmed locally here in New Mexico).
 - Roger also informed the group that the Purple Heart signs, located East to West on I-40, are being upgraded along I-40 as The Purple Heart Trail.
- V. New Business
 - There will be a 9/11 ceremony on Civic Plaza at 10:00am. At 8:15 the fire departments will climb the stairs in honor of 9/11.

- The New Mexico State Fair Veteran's Day will take place on Tuesday, September 15th. This day will be free to all veterans, to enter the park.
- Chris Timm let the group know that the Run For The Wall will be having a raffle, fundraising event.
- Chris also encouraged Board members to visit the New Mexico Museum of Military History, run by Harry Misel, to see what they have and enjoy the museums vehicles; support the Museum.
- Jonathan Strawn let the group know that in 2016, Kirtland Air Force Base will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary.
- Future Events:
 - August 27, 2015, Veteran's Only Expo/Job Fair
 - November 11, 2015 – Veterans Day. There will be a program at the NMVM.

VI. Setting of Future Meetings – September 16, 2015 at 9:00 am at the NM Veterans' Memorial.

VII. Adjourn – 10:05 am.